Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the first day of the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers

The EU is united on the need to reach a political solution which ends the bloodshed in Syria. It reiterates its support for efforts by the international community to achieve this, and will continue to reach out to all concerned to give new momentum for such a political solution.

We must look at how we can increase assistance to the moderate Syrian opposition, in particular through political and economic support.

The EU is determined to increase pressure on the Syrian regime to participate in a meaningful political process in line with the Geneva Communiqué.

The EU’s Syria sanctions package needs to be reviewed by 1 June. Ministers will use this opportunity to examine all options to achieve the EU’s goals.